

Message Text

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ACTION MC-02

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2483

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, BEXP, AG, MASS

SUBJ: SURETE NATIONALE REQUEST FOR MUNITIONS PURCHASE

REFS: (A) ALGIERS 1802, AUGUST 15, 1973

(B) ALGIERS 1799, AUGUST 14, 1973

(C) ALGIERS 1795, AUGUST 14, 1973

(D) ALGIERS 1722, AUGUST 4, 1973

(E) STATE 158615, AUGUST 11, 1973

SUMMARY. ALGERIAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES WISH TO PURCHASE 1800 SMITH AND WESSON REVOLVERS FOR VARIOUS POLICE USES. THIS IS FIRST ARMS PURCHASE REQUEST SINCE RESTORATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WE BELIEVE IT REPRESENTS TEST CASE WHICH WILL HAVE IMPORTANT EFFECT ON FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH ALGERIA'S MILITARY AND POLICE ESTABLISHMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ALGERIAN SURETE NATIONALE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT AKLI LOST NO TIME AFTER RESTORATION OF RELATIONS IN PRESENTING GOA'S FIRST ARMS PURCHASE REQUEST. HE CALLED IN ECON/COMM OFFICER HIGGINSON NOVEMBER 13 TO DISCUSS PURCHASE OF 1800 PISTOLS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES.

2. SPECIFICALLY SURETE NATIONALE WOULD LIKE TO
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BUY 300 EACH OF THE FOLLOWING MODELS OF SMITH &

WESSON'S REVOLVERS:

- A - MODEL # 10 - 38 MILITARY POLICE - S&W SPECIAL
- B - MODEL # 14 - K-38 MASTERPIECE
- C - MODEL # 15 - 38 COMBAT MASTER
- D - MODEL # 36 - 38 CHIEFS SPECIAL
- E - MODEL # 38 - 38 BODYGUARD AIRWEIGHT
- F - MODEL # 64 - 38 MILITARY & POLICE STAINLESS STEEL

3. SURETE NATIONAL WOULD LIKE TO CONCLUDE DEAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND TAKE DELIVERY IN 3 - 4 MONTHS. IN ORDER TO MAKE FINAL DECISION THEY WOULD LIKE COMPANY TO SEND THEM ONE REVOLVER OF EACH MODEL BY AIR FREIGHT FOR TESTING. SURETE IS WILLING TO PAY ALL COSTS INVOLVED IN TEST SHIPMENT.

4. SINCE SMITH & WESSON HAS NO NORTH AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE, SURETE HAS OBTAINED MATERIAL ON REVOLVERS FROM WEST GERMAN AGENT WHO SAID HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO CONCLUDE DEAL. SURETE WILLING TO WORK WITH S & W OR AGENT. IT NEEDS MANE OF CONTACT AND PRICES FOR ALGERIA. ON BASIS GERMAN PRICES, TOTAL CONTRACT HAS A VALUE OF DOLS. 20-30,000. A FRENCH FIRM, MANURHIM IS ALSO NEGOTIATING WITH SURETE, BUT S&W'S REVOLVERS HAVE BETTER REPUTATION.

5. AKLI ASSURED EMBOFF THAT REVOLVERS WERE PRIMARILY FOR USE OF MOTORCYCLE POLICE AS WELL AS SOME, UNNAMED, SPECIAL POLICES. HE REFERRED TO SURETE'S UNCESSFUL ATTEMPT IN AUGUST 73 (REFTELS) TO BUY .38 CALIBER POLICE AMMUNITION FOR PROTECTION OF CHIEFS OF STATE IN ALGIERS FOR NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. AKLI ALSO ADVANCED POSSIBILITY OF A LOT MORE BUSINESS NOW THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAD BEEN RESTORED. EMBOFF UNDERTOOK TO SEND REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT AND NOTED THAT APPROVAL CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD TO BE OBTAINED BOTH FROM USG AND SMITH & WESSON.

6. COMMENT: USG DECISION ON THIS CASE IF LIKELY TO HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH ALGERIA'S MILITARY AND POLICE ESTABLISHMENT AND PERHAPS IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL. RAPIDITY OF ALGERIAN INITIATIVE AND TENOR OF AKLI'S REMARKS MAKE IT REASONABLY CLEAR THAT THIS PURCHASE REQUEST IS BEING

PRESENTED AS TEST CASE.SUGGEST DEPARTMENT
CONSIDERATION BEGIN WITH REVIEW OF REFTELS ON PREVIOUS
MUNITIONS PURCHASE REQUEST.BARR

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